

STATE OF NEVADA



COMMISSION ON ETHICS

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**COMMISSION PANEL DETERMINATION  
REGARDING JUST AND SUFFICIENT CAUSE  
NRS 281.511(3)**

**COMMISSION PANEL: GEORGE KEELE AND JIM KOSINSKI**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST FOR OPINION  
CONCERNING THE CONDUCT OF  
Frances Deane, Clark County Recorder**

**Request for Opinion  
No. 03-47**

On March 4, 2004 pursuant to NRS 281.462, a Commission Panel reviewed the Executive Director's Report and Recommendation Regarding Just and Sufficient Cause, the request for opinion filed herein, and all related documents and determined that just and sufficient cause exists for the Commission to hold a hearing and render an opinion on the allegations that Ms. Deane violated the provisions of NRS 281.481(1), NRS 281.481(2), NRS 281.481(5), NRS 281.481(9), and NRS 281.481(10). The Panel further determined that just and sufficient cause does not exist for the Commission to hold a hearing and render an opinion on the allegations that Ms. Deane violated the provisions of NRS 281.481(7).

The Request for Opinion is, therefore, REFERRED TO THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON ETHICS, and is scheduled for hearing on Wednesday, April 14, 2004 at 9:30 a.m. in Henderson, Nevada.

DATED: March 4, 2004

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Stacy M. Jennings, MPA, Executive Director

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that I am an employee of the Nevada Commission on Ethics and that on this day at Carson City, Nevada, I placed a true and correct copy of the Commission Panel Determination Regarding Just and Sufficient Cause in an envelope and deposited same in the mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

Frances Deane, Clark County Recorder  
4282 Ridgecrest Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89121

Lew Brandon, Jr.  
Moran & Associates  
630 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Dated: March 4, 2004

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Emily Nunez, Administrative Assistant III

## ***Clarification Regarding Panel Determination***

**Allegation #1:** The panel found credible evidence exists, in the form of Ms. Deane's personal statements as recorded in a transcript of a televised interview on Face-to-Face with Jon Ralston, that Ms. Deane sought an economic opportunity contrary to the ethics in government law; and based on such evidence the information in Allegation #1 is referred to the Commission to hear the matter and render an opinion on whether Recorder Deane violated the provisions of NRS 281.481(1).

**Allegation #2:** The panel concurred with the recommendations of the Executive Director.

**Allegation #3:** The panel concurred with the recommendations of the Executive Director, and would recommend the Commission consider Allegation #3 in conjunction with Allegation #2.

**Allegation #4:** The panel found that alleged interference by Ms. Deane in the authorization and implementation of the AmCad contract may further constitute a violation of NRS 281.481(2). Thus, the information in Allegation #4 is referred to the Commission to hear the matter and render an opinion on whether Recorder Deane violated the provisions of NRS 281.481(2) and NRS 281.481(5).

**Allegation #5:** The panel concurred with the recommendation of the Executive Director to dismiss this allegation.

**Allegation #6:** The panel recommended the Commission consider two separate violations of NRS 281.481(9). In relation to former Assistant County Recorder Dan Hoffman, the panel found credible evidence exists for the Commission to consider whether Ms. Deane may have used her position in government to influence subordinate Hoffman to benefit her own financial interest. Further, the panel found credible evidence exists for the Commission to consider whether Ms. Deane used her position in government to personally benefit, by allegedly inducing worker Christopher Campbell to file false workplace violence complaints against two employees of the County Recorder's office.

**Allegation #7:** The panel found credible evidence exists, in the form of Ms. Deane's personal statements as recorded in a transcript of a televised interview on Face-to-Face with Jon Ralston, that Ms. Deane expressly used her position in government to seek other employment or contracts contrary to the ethics in government law; and that based on such evidence the information in Allegation #7 is referred to the Commission to hear the matter and render an opinion on whether Recorder Deane violated the provisions of NRS 281.481(10).

*Stacy M. Jennings*  
Executive Director  
Nevada Commission on Ethics  
March 4, 2004